

Animal Care and Control Shares Office with Difficult Cases

There is no doubt employees of the Health Department's Animal Care and Control office are animal lovers. Not only do they care for strays and impounded creatures at the rear of the office building, but they also have some permanent pets in the office area.



That's right. An occasional screech or a fluffy tail dangling off a chair are part of the office landscape with two African gray parrots and a large cat occupying small spaces.

Peanut, a 28-year-old female parrot is the longest office resident, brought in 10 years ago from a hoarder home, while in the work space next door you will find Walter, who is actually a female, rescued from a hoarder home five years ago. They have to watch Walter, who has been known to use rather foul language.



Blending into the dark office chairs is 6-year-old Arie, who was abandoned at one-year-old at the Gurnee Police Department. Warden Renee Wright rehabilitated the unkempt kitten.

While they make nice fixtures around the office, the animals also need care by someone who can manage their problems. Both parrots are biters and the cat can be moody, particularly around strangers. Since they are considered unadoptable, they have made their home at the Health Department.